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1992

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Commonwealth of Massachusetts *William F. Weld, Governor*
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs *Susan F. Tierney, Secretary*
Department of Environmental Protection *Daniel S. Greenbaum, Commissioner*

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A MESSAGE

The Constitution of the Commonwealth ensures the people of Massachusetts the right to clean air and water and to the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic qualities of their environment.

Founded on these rights, the mission of the Department of Environmental Protection is to protect and enhance the quality of the Commonwealth's natural resources so as to provide for the health, safety, welfare, and enjoyment of the public.

It was a year marked, not by the radical changes of the two or three years preceding it, but by thoughtful, meticulous steps to build upon those changes and to improve — steadily and continually — the quality of our service to the people of Massachusetts.

Looking back, it was a year of achievements as broad and diverse as the agency's mission. In these pages, presented as a retrospective calendar of 1992, the reader will find a representative sample of what we have done in just twelve months to further *protect and enhance the quality of the Commonwealth's natural resources*. Month after month, in accomplishments both seemingly small and unquestionably large, we worked hard to live up to our name.

Some things stand out. Just sixteen days into the year, legislators reported out favorably the measure that would, with the Governor's signature in July, enable us to wholly redesign the way hazardous waste sites in Massachusetts are cleaned up.

By April teams of regional inspectors were transforming what we once called the Blackstone Project into Waste Prevention F.I.R.S.T. — Facility-wide Inspections to Reduce Sources of Toxics, and taking that new approach to every corner of the state.

On July 1, a regulatory reform package took effect that shortened about two dozen permit review timelines, eliminated a dozen permit categories, and reduced fees for twenty types of permits and approvals.

A month later, the Environmental Strike Force netted yet another large cash payment for an environmental crime in Massachusetts, underscoring a Strike Force strategy to find and prosecute the worst environmental offenders in the state.

Throughout the year we worked to improve the way we do business. We moved most permit reviews to our four regional offices. And we transformed our regional offices into Service Centers, bringing DEP closer to the people we serve.

We have come a long way in the last year. And what we achieved in 1992 reminds us of a simple truth: we do our best work when we know our work is far from done.



Daniel S. Greenbaum

SUMS UP



Efforts toward cleaner air were a major 1992 focal point, with action to ensure that 1995 cars sold in the state meet the toughest tailpipe standards in the nation; another round of Stage II vapor recovery installation at gas stations; and establishment of the Clean Air Task Force, chaired by DEP Commissioner Greenbaum, charged with creating a long-term strategy to reduce automobile travel.



DEP regional offices took the award-winning Blackstone Project and put it to work in pilots statewide, calling it Waste Prevention F.I.R.S.T., for Facility-wide Inspections to Reduce Sources of Toxics. Agency-wide, DEP continues a strong field presence with compliance and enforcement inspections planned at more than 3,000 facilities for the year. DEP's compliance efforts logged nearly 1,000 Notices of Non-Compliance and more than \$400,000 in administrative penalties against nearly fifty violators.



For the second consecutive year, DEP maintained an on-time permitting decision record of better than 99 percent. Only 10 applicants, or two-tenths of one percent of the total, were given refunds because the agency missed permit review deadlines. In all, DEP received 4,793 permit applications, approving 3,856 and denying 59; the balance, at this writing, are being reviewed. Application fees generated revenues of about \$1.9 million. In support of compliance and enforcement, the agency received about \$5.1 million in annual compliance assurance fees, paid by most businesses and private facilities who hold DEP permits.



On Beacon Hill, continuing support among legislators for critical environmental initiatives was evidenced by enactment of key measures, among them legislation authorizing redesign of Chapter 21E, the hazardous waste site cleanup program; a State Revolving Fund that will help build more than 150 new sewage treatment plants in some 80 Massachusetts cities and towns; and legislation that puts stronger safeguards on Massachusetts watersheds.



The Department's commitment to protecting natural resources often yields substantial savings for taxpayers. Case in point: DEP successfully challenged a federal Environmental Protection Agency rule that would have forced more than 400 hundred Massachusetts cities and towns to build water filtration plants they don't need. Convincing EPA that the federal agency's premise -- that bacterial contamination is as likely in wells as in the surface waters that feed them -- did not always apply, Massachusetts was exempted from the rule. The estimated savings to cities and towns: \$300 million.



The Department awarded almost \$1million in recycling grants, and expects to award another \$2 million by June of 1993. DEP staff estimate that recycling-related industries add at least \$600 million to the state's economy every year, and account for 10,000 jobs.

JANUARY



Having weathered two major coastal storms in 1991, the agency today issued an initial guidance document to help local officials make informed judgments about proposals to rebuild storm-damaged coastal structures. Of some 500 Massachusetts homes damaged by Hurricane Bob, DEP estimates that the owners of fewer than 20 were prevented from rebuilding under emergency regulations. In most cases, the homes had been ravaged by previous storms, including the Blizzard of '78, and would only be damaged again if rebuilt. Structures in areas prone to flooding or catastrophic storm damage, if rebuilt, would have to be placed on pilings instead of solid foundations. Homes on barrier beaches, coastal beaches or coastal dunes located within areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as "velocity zones" could not be rebuilt if serviced by cesspool, tight tank or other sub-surface disposal system that could fail.



The Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture today reported out favorably a measure that would radically change the way hazardous waste sites are assessed and cleaned up. The amendments to Chapter 21E would increase private sector involvement in getting cleanups done more quickly and allow DEP to focus on responding to emergency spills and on finding the worst hazardous waste sites and getting them cleaned up. Among the chief features of the legislation are creation of Licensed Site Professionals (LSPs), environmental experts licensed by a state regulatory board independent of DEP, who will ensure site cleanup work meets the state's strict standards; two-tier notification that spells out when DEP approval is required before going ahead with a cleanup, and when it is not; and DEP permits for sites where, after DEP approval, an LSP is overseeing the cleanup.



Massachusetts became the first state in the Northeast to adopt an automobile emissions program as tough as the one currently on the books in California. Beginning with model year 1995, all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the Commonwealth will have to meet the most stringent tailpipe standards in the nation. The program, when fully implemented, will reduce tailpipe emissions of smog-causing hydrocarbons by as much as two-thirds, nitrogen oxides by nearly half, and carbon monoxide by about one-quarter.

Beginning with model year 1995, all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in Massachusetts must meet the most stringent tailpipe standards in the nation

FEBRUARY

DEP has successfully challenged a federal rule that could have forced more than 400 municipal and private water suppliers across Massachusetts to spend \$300 million they don't have on filtration plants they don't need.



Under amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, most suppliers pumping water from wells fed by nearby lakes and streams were to have been required to build expensive filtration systems. U.S. EPA based that rule on the assumption that bacterial contamination was just as likely in those wells as it was in the open bodies of water that contributed to them.

DEP's successful challenge of the federal rule saved cities and towns more than \$300 million

But experts in DEP's Division of Water Supply disagreed and, in 1989, began a demonstration project to convince EPA that filtration plants would be a waste of money in most cases. After reviewing the data, federal officials agreed.



According to the annual site list issued today, DEP has confirmed hazardous waste contamination at 2,342 sites in Massachusetts — 703 of which have qualified for waivers from most regulatory requirements — and has targeted 2,517 suspected sites for investigation.

Assessment and cleanup work is underway at only about 30 percent of those sites. Since 1983, cleanups have been completed at only 266 hazardous waste sites, but the number of cleanups completed per year is expected to triple with a new 21E program at work.

A New Bedford company was fined \$400,000 -- the largest criminal environmental penalty imposed in Massachusetts -- following conviction on charges involving hazardous wastes.



Polyply, Inc. stored hazardous wastes illegally -- knowing that they posed a danger to human health and safety and to the environment -- and disposed of them by knowingly handing them over to an unlicensed contractor.

DEP Commissioner Greenbaum called the conviction a "wake-up call" to those companies who think they can save money by ignoring environmental laws.

The Strike Force victory was a "wake-up call" for those who choose to ignore environmental laws

The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Massachusetts Environmental Strike Force, an interagency team comprised of technical, legal, and investigative staff from the Attorney General, DEP, and Environmental Police.

MARCH



As serious as DEP is about protecting the environment, we are determined to regulate smarter and make it easier to comply with the rules

DEP began asking those it regulates what they think of the service they get for the fees they pay. When the agency makes a permit decision, inspects a regulated facility or grants a waiver of approvals for cleaning up a waste site, it now mails a survey to the business affected by that action.

By year's end, surveys returned revealed that nearly 80 percent of respondents rate their experiences with DEP "good" or "excellent".

The DEP message: As serious as the agency is about protecting the environment, we are just as determined to regulate smarter and make it easier for businesses to comply with the environmental rules.



A Somerville smelting and salvage company has agreed to stop illegal operation of its incinerator and clean up its facility, according to a consent judgment secured by the Environmental Strike Force.

The judgment requires Bay State Smelting Company, Inc. to meet air, water, and hazardous waste standards before operating again. Investigators found that the company was illegally handling and disposing of hazardous wastes, endangering its workers and the public with emissions of lead and other heavy metals, and discharging pollutants to a sewer without a permit.



A well-known environmental laboratory agreed to plead guilty to charges that it falsified test results on drinking water samples. Federal criminal fraud charges followed a 13-month joint investigation by the Massachusetts Environmental Strike Force and U.S. EPA. Stevens Environmental Laboratories, of Stoneham, sent false, fraudulent, and misleading analyses to unsuspecting customers, including municipalities and hospitals.

Toxics Use in Massachusetts Industries
In Billions of Pounds
(From Over 600 Firms' TURA Reports)



Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) staff revised industrial toxics use reporting forms and related regulations to make them more user-friendly and eliminate some common sources of error. Later in the year, data reported by more than 600 industrial firms will show that industry in the state makes use of 1.25 billion pounds of toxic substances. Roughly 10 percent of that does not become part of products and must be treated as waste.

APRIL



This month, DEP regional offices took the Blackstone Project -- the agency's national-award-winning whole-facility, cross-media industrial inspection initiative -- and put it to work in pilots statewide. Now called Waste Prevention F.I.R.S.T., for Facility-wide Inspections to Reduce Sources of Toxics, the program will conduct 120 inspections by July and start full-scale implementation in October. Working with the state Office of Technical Assistance, DEP regional teams began changing the way regulators look at curbing pollution: not with sole reliance on controls at the stack, the barrel, and the pipe, but by going, first, back to the source and there finding ways to cut toxics in production. Agency-wide, DEP continues a strong field presence with compliance and enforcement inspections planned at more than 3,000 facilities for the year.

DEP continues a strong field presence with compliance/enforcement inspections planned at more than 3,000 facilities for the year



To Digital Equipment Corporation, getting an edge on the future means producing highly advanced semiconductor chips and then beating the competition to the marketplace. Digital made its move with what it calls Fab 6, its next-generation Replacement Semiconductor Manufacturing Facility. After looking at potential sites outside of Massachusetts, DEC decided on Hudson, where it has been manufacturing for more than a decade. The advantages were evident: a local, skilled work force (eager for new jobs); and access to professionals emerging from Massachusetts' unparalleled universities.

For DEC's strategy to work, everything depends on time, and not much of it. Fab 6 has to be in production by July, 1996. That means starting tests and prototypes by January, 1994. To do that, DEC had to break ground by June 1, 1992. When the corporation came to DEP for two key permits, that planned groundbreaking was only about six months away. Recognizing the enormous boost Fab 6 would give local and state economies, DEP went to work.

Superior environmental safeguards agreed upon in just a few months give a major Massachusetts company a head start on its world-wide competitors

Today, a month ahead of DEC's schedule, the agency signed the sewer connection permit; the air quality permit followed on May 4. A key element of the approvals: DEC's commitment to wastewater recycling and re-use, toxics use reduction, and Best Available Control Technology to minimize air emissions. Together, DEC and DEP proved that superior environmental safeguards can be agreed upon fast enough to give a major Massachusetts company a head start on its world-wide competitors.



An Amesbury company will pay a \$100,000 civil penalty following a judgment in Suffolk Superior Court that it illegally discharged industrial wastewater into the town's sewer system. The court found that Amesbury Circuit Services Inc. (ASCI) began discharging into the town sewer in 1987, without a DEP sewer connection permit.

In May, 1990, ASCI signed a consent order agreeing to secure the proper permit and then install its own wastewater treatment facility. It also paid a \$25,000 civil penalty. But ASCI ignored the provisions of the consent order and let its deadlines pass.

The Attorney General took up enforcement action on behalf of DEP in late 1991, leading to the judgment handed down today.



With a new logo, the state-owned Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield expanded with a pilot program to process drink boxes, juice cartons, milk containers, and plastic bottles. By year's end, the three-year-old facility, which serves 91 western Massachusetts communities, had processed about 150,000 tons of glass, metal, paper, and plastic recyclables.



Nine regional planning agencies and the City of Fitchburg will share \$266,000 in grants awarded by DEP, and funded by U.S. EPA, to help safeguard water supplies.

DEP rated 23 proposals for:

- Overall public benefit;
- The degree to which they employed regional solutions; and
- Their likely impact on water supplies in greatest need of protection.

The agency has awarded more than \$1.5 million in water supply protection planning grants since 1988.

Regional planning agencies and municipalities have used those funds to conduct land-use inventories and water supply surveys, enact wellhead protection controls and negotiate regional water supply protection agreements.



Dozens of automobile service station owners and operators met in Taunton for the third in a series of five DEP workshops designed to help their facilities meet environmental standards and find ways to reduce wastes.

The series, "Full Tuneup, No Shocks" targeted air quality issues, hazardous waste management, water pollution control, waste site cleanup, and public safety laws.

Waste prevention techniques were explored with staff from the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance.

JUNE

Eighty-five key DEP advisors representing environmental, business, and municipal organizations today met with senior agency staff at the first DEP Futures Day. Invited by Commissioner Greenbaum to help shape DEP policy direction for the months and years ahead, the group tackled a range of critical issues: environmental law enforcement, streamlining regulations, permitting procedures, and assistance to local governments.



One of the most important features of the day: the chance for many people who are used to working with DEP in only one technical or regulatory area to view the full spectrum of the agency's mission.

The City of Lowell today agreed to close down its Westford Street landfill, in a judgment entered in Suffolk Superior Court, settling a dispute about its operation that began in 1977.



As the city struggled financially while trying to meet the demands of a 1978 agreement to comply with the Solid Waste, Clean Waters, and Clean Air acts, the unlined landfill leached into adjoining wetlands until 1981, when collection equipment was installed, but continued to leach into groundwater in the years that followed.

Under the judgment entered today, the city will close and cap the landfill, contract for trash disposal elsewhere, and start a city-wide curbside recycling program.

Today DEP issued the first of three rounds of equipment grants this year to cities and towns to help start up, expand, or improve recycling programs; the agency will award almost \$1 million in 1992 and an estimated \$3 million by June, 1993. Communities use the funds for set-out bins, roll-off containers, recycling trucks, and yard waste processing equipment.

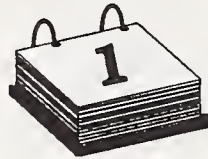


DEP estimates that recycling-related industries add at least \$600 million to the state's economy every year, and account for 10,000 jobs.

The strongest municipal grant applications show: active participation in regional recycling efforts; evidence of long-term and financial commitment to recycling and composting programs; detailed and accurate program records; feasible plans for using the equipment to start, expand, or improve a program.

By the end of fiscal year 1993, DEP expects to award \$3 million in recycling grants to scores of communities

JULY



A regulatory reform package that strengthens environmental protection and makes it easier for business and industry to comply with the law took effect the first of July. The package amends regulations that link permit application fees to strict timelines for DEP reviews, further refines annual compliance

assurance fees, and changes air quality and solid waste regulations to make them more consistent and fair.

The effect: 23 shorter permit review timelines, 12 permit categories eliminated, and reduced fees for 20 permits and approvals. Chief among air quality program changes are new language to make regulations clearer and simplification of asbestos removal notification rules.

Amendments for solid waste programs make it easier and faster to start recycling and composting projects, and clarify solid waste facility siting requirements.

- 23 review timelines trimmed
- 12 permit categories eliminated
- 20 permit fees reduced



Governor Weld today signed amendments to Chapter 21E that revolutionize the way hazardous waste sites are cleaned up. Working from a new approach that puts the private sector (through Licensed Site Professionals) in the mainstream of waste site cleanups, the program redesign gives incentives to responsible parties for getting cleanups done quickly, including streamlined response actions that clearly set standards and definitions for "permanent solutions".

That helps free DEP staff to concentrate on the worst sites at hand. DEP will permit and oversee private cleanups — or start publicly-funded work — for at least 100 of the most serious sites each year.

And, the agency will add at least 100 sites a year to a list that spells out when temporary and permanent measures will begin and how long they will take to complete.

Regulations implementing the new program are scheduled to take effect July 1, 1993.

A new approach allows the private sector to take the lead in cleaning up thousands of hazardous waste sites across the state



The Special Commission on Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance, charged with recommending new legislation to redesign the state's auto inspection program, met to move forward on its mandate. By year's end the group will have conducted nine public hearings, and an interim report is expected to go to the House in early 1993.

AUGUST

As part of a continuing effort to streamline environmental requirements wherever possible, regulations took effect today simplifying the way contractors must notify the state before beginning asbestos removal projects. The changes allow contractors to notify both DEP and the Department of Labor and Industries by filing a single form, rather than the two forms required until now. DEP also cut by half — from 20 to 10 days — the advance time needed to ensure that projects meet both DLI and federal EPA requirements.



The Environmental Strike Force today won a large cash payment for environmental crime in Massachusetts. Dennison Manufacturing Company, in Framingham, pleaded guilty in Middlesex Superior Court to two counts of illegal burning of hazardous wastes without a proper license. The company will pay \$250,000 — a \$50,000 fine, the maximum penalty allowed; and a \$200,000 contribution to the Environmental Challenge Fund, which is used to clean up hazardous waste sites.



Staff in DEP's southeast regional office, in Lakeville, continued work on two Total Quality Management projects. Selected by the sponsoring Commonwealth Quality Council for one of a handful of TQM pilots in state agencies, the Lakeville project team wants to reduce by 50 percent the number of Administrative Deficiencies issued to those seeking Solid Waste and Air Quality permits.



In one pilot, SERO staff are examining areas that cause delays in the Administrative review by departmental staff of those applications seeking Air Quality or Solid Waste permits. After using TQM techniques to collect data and identify problem areas, the team will create supplements to permit application packages that they hope will clarify the process and make it easier for permit seekers to file a good application.

A second TQM pilot aims at making the Barnstable Aquifer Protection Project more effective and evaluating the project's limitations and weaknesses. The goal: a high-quality, cost-effective cleanup of significant contamination in the Hyannis/Barnstable public well fields. Using TQM evaluation techniques, staff are looking at the current 21E process, hoping to create a framework for cooperative efforts among DEP, the town, and site owners to accelerate the cleanup.

The Southeast project to improve service is among only a handful of Total Quality Management pilots in state government

SEPTEMBER



Today DEP issued new regulations that promote recycling and reuse of sludge and sludge products, such as pellets and compost. The changes raise the allowable levels of two heavy metals when sludge is used as a fertilizer or soil conditioner. The new standards remain among the most protective in the nation, and studies indicate no threats to health or environment.

Under the new regulations, properly treated sludge can be used in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and turf farming. The changes involve cadmium and molybdenum. The standard for cadmium is raised from 2 parts per million to 14 ppm; molybdenum levels of up to 25 ppm now are allowed, up from 10 ppm.

Massachusetts' more than 200 municipal and private wastewater treatment facilities generate an estimated 500,000 tons of sludge each year. The previous standards for the two metals forced more than 75 percent of that sludge to be buried in landfills.



What if a tanker, loaded with gasoline, spills onto a major highway, during rush hour traffic, and what if it occurs hard by the sole-source well field for one town and only a hundred yards from a river that provides water to seven more towns downstream?

These are the questions northeast regional office Emergency Response staff had to deal with when the phone call came at 7:55 a.m. that a tanker had rolled over on I-93 in Wilmington. The news triggered the response action plan that the staff has used in more than 15,000 spill incidents during the last 10 years.

Quick action by northeast regional staff, following a tank truck rollover on I-93, helps save a town's drinking water

Within two hours of the spill call, ER staff activated the equipment and manpower they needed. When the green light to move in and assess the site was given at 10:10 am by a Wilmington deputy fire chief, a small army of DEP staff began working 24 hours a day under ER supervision to stop the gasoline before it reached the Town of Reading's well field, or threatened towns down the Ipswich River.

With five days of round-the-clock work, three recovery sumps were in place in wetlands, pumping gasoline and contaminated groundwater into 22,000 gallon capacity tanks; 600 tons of contaminated peat were transported off-site; 15 monitoring wells were installed in the area; and four monitoring stations were chosen along the river. Dozens of rounds of sampling for days continued to send the best of news: quick action had trapped most of the spill. Months later, ER staff continue to supervise remediation at the site. And even the "hottest" of the recovery wells -- closest to where the tanker rolled -- just barely exceeds drinking water standards.

OCTOBER

Until today, anyone with a wetlands-related project requiring federal permits as well as local or state approval had to make at least a couple of stops. With a local Order of Conditions in hand, the applicant still had to get certification from DEP staff in Boston, under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, that the project would not violate state water quality standards. And even if the applicant were appealing an Order of Conditions to DEP staff in one of the agency's four regional offices, she or he still had to get the Section 401 certification back in Boston.



Everyone wins: it's faster and easier for applicants, allowing DEP staff to concentrate on projects that pose greater impacts on wetlands

Today that changed. In yet another move toward better service to the people with whom it does business, DEP moved its Section 401 reviews to regional offices, making them one-stop centers for those seeking both the certification and appeal of a local wetlands decision. At the same time, the agency made certification simpler. By clarifying standards, most projects approved locally -- or appealed to DEP -- now are considered to have been adequately examined for Section 401, eliminating the need for further review.

It's a common-sense move, and everyone wins: it's faster and easier for applicants, and that enhances environmental protection by allowing DEP staff to concentrate on projects that pose greater impacts on wetlands.



Governor Weld today signed legislation that provides for hundreds of millions of dollars in state loan subsidies to communities for construction of sewage treatment plants. 1989 legislation, the Hayes Act, was to have provided grants of between 25 and 90 percent to communities that planned to build new sewage treatment plants, through a \$2.2 billion bond issue. Facing difficult fiscal decisions, the Administration found the original subsidy levels impossibly high.

The law signed today honors previously pledged funding of from 25 to 90 percent to those communities that went ahead with treatment plant construction based on those promises from the state. Future projects may be eligible for up to 25 percent of construction costs. The lower, \$122 million, bond authorization and an annual operating budget appropriation is expected to leverage \$300 million more in federal funds.

The State Revolving Fund will help build more than 150 new sewage treatment plants in 80 communities

This new State Revolving Fund will help build more than 150 new treatment plants in some 80 Massachusetts communities.

NOVEMBER



New England Power will install a first-in-the-nation pollution control system at its Salem Harbor power plant, reducing smog-causing nitrogen oxides emissions by two-thirds under a consent order with DEP.

The agency estimates that, since 1984, the plant has emitted nearly 50,000 tons of excess nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere, making it the state's second largest source of NOx. Nitrogen oxides are a major contributor to smog and acid rain.

DEP's analysis of compliance test results on the Salem

First-in-the-nation commercial installation of this new technology on a coal-fired electric company boiler will cut emissions by two-thirds

Harbor plant indicates that NOx emissions increased by more than 6800 tons per year after three of the plant's boilers were converted from oil to coal in 1984. The facility's permit provided that, should the coal conversion increase NOx emissions by more than 250 tons per year, NEP would install Best Available Control Technology in its design to limit emissions. By November, 1994, New England Power will install Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction control technology and combustion controls on the three coal-fired units,

which will reduce the excess NOx emissions from the plant by two-thirds.

It will be the first commercial installation of SNCR technology on a coal-fired electric company boiler in the United States; it is in use in Europe and Japan.



The Division of Air Quality Control submitted to U.S.EPA its final draft inventory of all Massachusetts air emission sources of volatile organics, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides. The 2,000-page inventory, which took three years to prepare, serves as the basis for setting strategies to meet the emission reduction mandates of the federal Clean Air Act. The inventory will be revised in early 1993 with updated highway vehicle emissions data.

The inventory, a three-year project, serves as the basis for strategies to meet emission reductions of the federal Clean Air Act

At the same time air quality staff gave EPA several draft regulations, including one to revise new major emission sources of volatile organic chemicals and nitrogen oxides.

And, rounding out the package to EPA, the Department offered its final recommendation for the Small Business Technical Assistance Program, a Clean Air Act requirement designed to get government

working with businesses and industries that, while individually small in size, together comprise a fairly large class of air emission sources.

For the second consecutive year, DEP maintained an on-time permitting decision record of better than 99 percent. Only 10 applicants, or two-tenths of one percent of the total, were given refunds because the agency missed permit review deadlines. In all, DEP received 4,793 permit applications, approving 3,856 and denying 59. Application fees generated revenues of about \$1.9 million. In support of its compliance and enforcement programs, the agency received about \$5.1 million in annual compliance assurance fees, paid by most businesses and private facilities who hold DEP permits.

For the second consecutive year, DEP maintained an on-time permitting decision record of better than 99 percent

For decades, the 22-acre parcel near the confluence of the Connecticut and Chicopee rivers had been a dangerous, frustrating eyesore. And while its owners -- first an electric utility, then a landfill operator, and now the City of Chicopee -- wanted to raze the old Hampden Steam Plant, environmental and financial obstacles had always stood in the way. The biggest problem was asbestos.



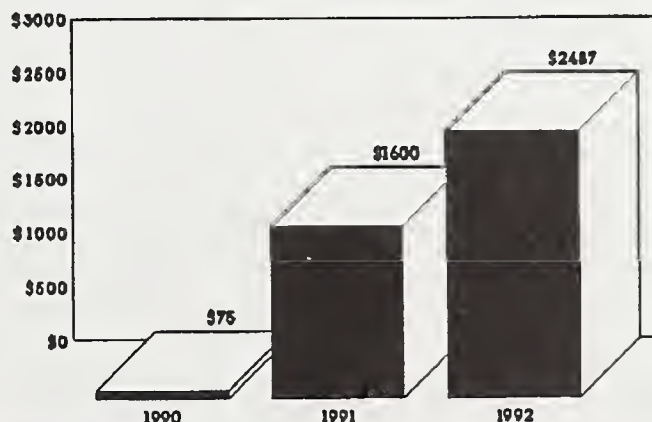
The 75-year old, 45,000 square-foot building was laden with asbestos, and not only would conventional removal cost more than \$1 million, it would have been difficult to keep winds from carrying it away. That dilemma brought together city officials and staff from DEP's western regional office. If removal and off-site disposal is the problem, they said, we can find another way. DEP engineers devised the plan: The solution, they said, is to super-saturate the asbestos with high-pressure water during demolition and bury the contained asbestos right there, below the building's foundation. A soil cap would secure it.

Today city officials and DEP western regional staff watched a demolition claw tear into the first wall to come down. Most of the demolition will be done by the end of the month. Next spring, with grading and seeding, the city will restore the land to its natural beauty and plan for what they hope will be a refuge for wildlife.

At year's end, the state Environmental Strike Force had tallied \$2,487,600 in fines, jail terms for two violators, house arrest for another, and forfeiture of trucks.

The 1992 fines exceed the previous year's by more than \$800,000, and are more than 30 times those levied in 1990.

Environmental Strike Force Fines
In Thousands of Dollars



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston 02108

The Department of Environmental Protection offers Service Centers in each of its four regional offices. Here, staff are ready to help DEP's many "customers" find the information and help they need, making these Service Centers the best first place to call or visit when you need to contact DEP. Please call the Center nearest you.

- Springfield 413-784-1100 ext. 214
- Woburn 617-935-2160 ext. 112
- Worcester 508-792-7683
- Lakeville 508-946-2714

DEP also offers InfoLine, a toll-free service for general information, permit application kits, and referral to DEP technical experts.

- Call toll-free (from area codes 508 and 413) 1-800-462-0444.
- For calls within area code 617 and from out-of-state: 617-338-2255

